

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES  
WORK SESSION  
February 20, 2003

The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (SBCJC) met for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the Jackson Hilton in Jackson, Mississippi, on February 20, 2003. Following dinner, board members and staff moved to the Cabana Room in the Hotel.

The following members were present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Sara Fox, Mrs. Veldore Heidelberg, Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Ms. Patricia Randall, and Mr. George Walker. Members Absent: Mr. Napoleon Moore, Mr. Lawrence Warren, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge. SBCJC staff present included: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Dr. Larry Day, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mr. Duane Hamill, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mr. Jim Southward, and Mrs. Denise Walley. Guests present included: Mr. Pete Walley and Dr. Bill Smith from IHL.

Mr. George Walker called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Pete Walley distributed and briefly covered a document highlighting talking points related to the Mississippi Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program (MEP) (Exhibit A). Mississippi community and junior colleges have approved participation in the program. The mission for MEP is to deliver quality technical assistance in a timely, efficient manner in order to help Mississippi's small and medium sized manufacturers increase productivity and profitability.

Mr. Walley also gave the Board a report on the activities of the Mississippi Vocational and Technical Discussion Workgroup. The workgroup, chaired by Mr. Walley, was established to bring affected parties to the table to discuss details and address concerns related to the transfer of post-secondary vocational and technical education to the SBCJC from the Mississippi Department of Education. Mr. Walley distributed a draft copy of the workgroup's findings and recommendations for the Board's review (Exhibit B).

The report outlined four recommendations:

1. Refocus the state education strategy to include vocational and technical education programs on an equal basis with academic programs.
2. Designate the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges as the director of vocational and technical education programs. Charge that board with developing a broadbased strategic plan for vocational and technical education as a part of an overall state workforce development plan, including a revitalization of the school-to-career initiative.
3. Formalize an effort to attract more students into vocational and technical education programs.
4. Require the vocational and technical education system to systematically identify nationally recognized skill standards for all areas of study and require students to chose one or more skills standards in which to be certified.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher commended Mr. Walley and the workgroup for their efforts. He also gave the Board a report on continuing talks with State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Henry Johnson, concerning the establishment of a contractual agreement to administer post-secondary vocational/technical programs.

Mr. Duane Hamill gave the Board an overview of the Mississippi Quality Awards Program (MQA). The MQA program was established as an educational and economic development service to Mississippi businesses and institutions, large and small, that wish to share in the value and achievements associated with the application of continuous improvement principles to better serve their customers.

Formed as part of the Workforce Education Act of 1994, the program is operated by the SBCJC and promotes quality awareness and practices at four levels of organization implementation. The self-assessment process and its validation by outside Quality Examiners is based totally on the Malcolm Baldrige criteria. All applicants receive a site visit. Upon completion of that process, the team recommends to the judges the level the organization is to be awarded.

Mr. Hamill distributed a brochure containing additional information for the Board's review (Exhibit C). This year the annual celebration ceremony will be held on March 21, 2003, where thirteen Mississippi organizations will receive recognition for their achievements. He invited and urged the Board members to attend the awards ceremony if possible.

Mr. Hamill, on behalf of Associate Executive Director of Accountability and Support Services, Dr. Evelyn Webb, reminded Board members that she had asked for their input and comments related to the draft of the SBCJC strategic plan.

Mr. Jim Southward, SBCJC Director of Affiliated Activities, gave the Board an update on current Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College's (MACJC) athletic programs. The regular basketball season will end after competitions tonight. The state basketball tournament will begin next week at Copiah-Lincoln Community College between the top four men's and women's teams in the North and South Divisions.

Mr. Southward announced that Mr. Jay Miller had been named head football coach at Mississippi Delta Community College.

Spring Sports competitions have begun, including baseball, women's softball, track, tennis, and golf. Mr. Southward will keep the Board informed as the season progresses.

Mrs. Sara Fox and Mrs. Deborah Gilbert reviewed Finance agenda items as follows:

1. Education Enhancement Fund and Budget Contingency Fund Disbursements for February, 2003, from Funds 4080, 4110, and 3295 in the total amount of \$3,289,975.34;
2. Purchasing Approvals: (1) Hardware -Two Optiview-Pro Network Analyzers and Software to upgrade the Community College Network (CCN) in the total amount of \$37,040.12, and (2) Miscellaneous computer equipment for the SBCJC office in the amount of \$181,362;
3. Report on FY 2004 Appropriations – SB 2678 for Support
4. Report on FY 2004 Appropriations – SB 2678 for Administration
5. Financial Statements for Funds 2291 and 3291 as of January 31, 2003.

Mrs. Gilbert distributed a copy of a report showing the SBCJC Funding formula for FY 2004 (Exhibit D). The report gave a summary of significant events leading to the passage of Senate Bill 2678, the new funding formula for FY 2004, FTE enrollment data for FY 2003, Headcount funding formula for FY 2004, headcount enrollment data for FY 2003 and summary information on the five-year phase-in of the hold harmless provision. The report included a complete copy of Senate Bill 2678. Mr. Gilbert covered the report with the Board in detail.

Dr. Randall Bradberry distributed a listing of legislative bills directly and indirectly affecting the SBCJC and community colleges for the Board's review (Exhibit E).

Mr. Walker discussed with the Board recent articles in the newspaper that criticize the educational boards in the state for pay increases awarded to certain employees under their direction. The Board will further discuss the recent action of Legislators with regard to the raises during the regular meeting tomorrow.

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher reminded the Board that staff would be making recommendations for appointments to the MS Post-Secondary Education Financial Assistance Board and the Nissan Scholarship Committee during tomorrow's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.